

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 12/4/08**  
**Minutes of Meeting of October 30, 2008**  
Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Faculty President Matos called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Brian Connett (excused), Catherine Coyle-Thompson, Paula DiMarco, Irma Good, Catherine Jeppson (excused), Rodica Kohn (excused), Marta Lopez-Garza (excused), Charles Macune (excused), Kathleen Marsaglia (excused), Miguel Segura, Cheryl Spector (excused), Mary-Pat Stein (excused), Jeff Stork, David Wakefield, Jennifer Zvi (excused)

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for October 2, 2008](#) were approved as distributed.

**1. Announcements**

- a. The test on-line election planned for today's meeting was cancelled because Paul Schantz, Director of Web and Technology Service for Student Affairs, requested that it be postponed until the Spring. It was necessary for Associated Students to cancel their recent on-line student election because of problems; Paul will provide an update at the next Senate meeting.
- b. The Senators were invited to attend a special meeting on the Post-Promotion Increase (PPI) process scheduled for next Thursday, November 6, at 2:00 pm in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room. All faculty will be invited to attend this session.

**2. Present Resolution of Appreciation to Financial Aid**

At the last Faculty Senate meeting, a resolution was passed to show appreciation to Financial Aid for finding a temporary way to fund financial aid to students while the state financial aid to college students had been stalled by the state budget. The resolution was presented to Lili Vidal; she thanked the Senate for this recognition.

**3. Nominations/Election for Senator-at-Large Replacement**

Four faculty members were nominated to replace Sheila Grant as a Senator-at-Large. A secret ballot election was held and Sharon Klein (English) was elected to complete Grant's term that ends in Spring 2009.

**4. Discussion on Assessment Fall 2009 Alternative Scheduling**

Steven Stepanek, Chair of ERC, and Jerald Schutte, Member of ERC

Stepanek reported that the Educational Resources Committee passed a resolution requesting Colleges to develop an evaluation instrument to assess the scheduling change and measure student behavior concerning course enrollment, particularly with respect to block classes scheduled on Friday and Saturday. Schutte provided some background information on why

the decision was made to move towards alternative scheduling and said that President Koester asked that some degree of assessment be done if we decide to experiment with alternative scheduling in 2009-10.

Some feedback and questions included the following:

- Are we assessing numbers enrolled or quality? Institutional Research is the logical place to assess numbers enrolled. We should also assess whether the “student experience” met their expectations.
- We should survey students to see if there was additional demand on full classes.
- We should consider having a universal instrument with a college supplement and department related questions. We would like to see a separate instrument for general faculty feedback.
- We should use university assessment/college-based assessment resources.
- We should assess impact on Monday/Wednesday classes, 4 unit classes, and graduate classes.
- We should have Student Affairs provide assessment as they do extra-curricular programming.

## 5. **Policy Items** – Educational Policies Committee

Elizabeth Adams, Chair of EPC

### **Action Item** – [Petition/Appeal Process for Honors at Graduation Policy](#)

At the last Senate meeting, a suggestion was made to revise the language in the policy so that it is clear that “department recommendation” be viewed as whatever is consistent with departmental policies or practice within a particular department. EPC made this suggested change to the policy.

This comes from the Executive Committee with a “do pass.” The motion to approve the policy was **passed**.

### **Action Item** – [Repeating Course for Third or Subsequent Time Policy](#)

At the last Senate meeting a question was raised as to why permission for undecided students is required from the director of the Advising Resource Center/EOP and not the director of Undergraduate Studies. EPC made changes to the policy to include this suggestion.

This comes from the Executive Committee with a “do pass.” After some discussion on course repeat limits, the motion to approve the policy was **passed**.

## 6. **President’s Report** – Jolene Koester

President Koester reported the following:

**Welcome** – There are a number of ongoing activities this 2008-09 academic year: the campus’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and related events (we will have a Grand Reunion on April 25, 2009), WASC re-accreditation, and the NCAA Athletic Recertification process.

**Report on Esha Momeni** – Esha Momeni, a graduate student in Mass Communications, was arrested in Iran while working on her thesis project. The University has taken a series of

steps to increase the probability that she will be released, including holding a press conference and initiating a number of direct communications to various people. We are very concerned for her physical welfare. We are also taking a public position to support the free exchange of ideas.

**Budget Situation** – We don't have a lot of specific information on what the larger economic crisis is going to do to the State of California budget. Nationwide, higher education in general and public university systems are being severely hit by budget cuts because of their states' falling fortunes. For 2008-09, we have received a mid-year budget cut of \$2.1 million dollars. We anticipated this cut, so in planning we set aside these dollars. We believe that there will also be a second mid-year budget cut. The Governor has called the Legislature into special session in November. This session will, undoubtedly, consider both cuts to state agencies and revenue enhancements. We have planned for the potential of additional cuts and believe we can handle up to five percent without having to take money back from the divisions. With state revenues declining, the message is that higher education budgets will likely be cut again for 2009-10.

Historically, we have been through budget cuts before, and we know there is life after budget cuts. Two main priorities that we will focus on are making classes available for our students and protecting the jobs of permanent staff and tenured and tenure-track faculty.

## 7. Senate Reports

### a. **Provost's Report** – Harry Hellenbrand

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/provostsreport103008.pdf>

Provost Hellenbrand added the following comments:

- There is no hiring freeze. He said to use one's best judgment on hiring decisions.
- If budget cuts stay within \$3-5 million this year, dollars have been set aside, so we should not have to go back to the Colleges for additional hits.
- He anticipates the bargaining contract being reopened.
- Colleges are working together on the Health Initiative.

### b. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Barbara Swerkes

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport103008.pdf>

The Statewide Academic Senate takes the same stand as President Koester explained in her report above on Esha Momeni.

### c. **CFA Report** – Theresa Montaña, CFA President

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport103008.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

Cecile Bendavid, Substitute Secretary of the Faculty